

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: Traffic Signs		NUMBER: TE-254
		DATE: January 3, 1995
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: "Authorized Vehicles Only" Signs		SUPERSEDES: TE-249
DIRECTED TO: District Administrators	SIGNATURE: <i>J. L. Butner</i>	

"Authorized Vehicles Only" signs shall be installed at all non-chained crossovers on limited access highways. These signs are necessary to increase motorist safety and also for police enforcement since u-turns on limited access highways are legal unless appropriate signing is installed. This practice is in compliance with AASHTO's *A Policy on U-Turn Median openings on Freeways*, which states that "U-turn median openings should be restricted to use by official and emergency vehicles only. The freeway should be signed to prevent any median crossings by the general public, and this regulation should be enforced".

Installation of "Authorized Vehicles Only" signs should be accomplished at chained crossovers when it is known that motorists frequently attempt to use these crossovers resulting in their backing out into traffic to exit due to the crossover being chained.

All requests for open crossovers should be reviewed by the District Traffic Engineer with final approval determined by the District Maintenance Engineer.

A copy of House Bill No. 697 defining "Authorized Vehicle" is attached for your information.

DCF/df

cc: Mr. David R. Gehr
Mr. A. W. Coates, Jr.
Mr. C. D. Garver
Mr. J. S. Hodge
Division Administrators
Resident Engineers
District Traffic Engineers

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 1994 SESSION

CHAPTER 280

An Act to amend and reenact § 46.2-830 of the Code of Virginia, relating to highway signs.

[H 697]

Approved April 4, 1994

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 46.2-830 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:
§ 46.2-830. Uniform marking and signing of highways; drivers to obey signs; enforcement of section.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board may classify, designate, and mark state highways and provide a uniform system of marking and signing such highways under the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. Such system of marking and signing shall correlate with and, so far as possible, conform to the system adopted in other states.

All drivers of vehicles shall obey lawfully erected signs.

No provision of this section relating to the prohibition of disobeying signs or violating local traffic signals, markings, and lights shall be enforced against an alleged violator if, at the time and place of the alleged violation, any such sign, signal, marking, or light is not in proper position and sufficiently legible to be seen by an ordinarily observant person.

"Authorized vehicle," when used on any sign limiting crossovers on divided highways to use by "authorized vehicles," shall mean (i) Department of Transportation vehicles, (ii) law-enforcement vehicles, (iii) emergency vehicles as defined in § 46.2-830, (iv) towing and recovery vehicles operating under the direction of law-enforcement officers, (v) vehicles for which permits authorizing use of such crossovers have been issued by the Department of Transportation, and (vi) other vehicles operating in medical emergency situations.